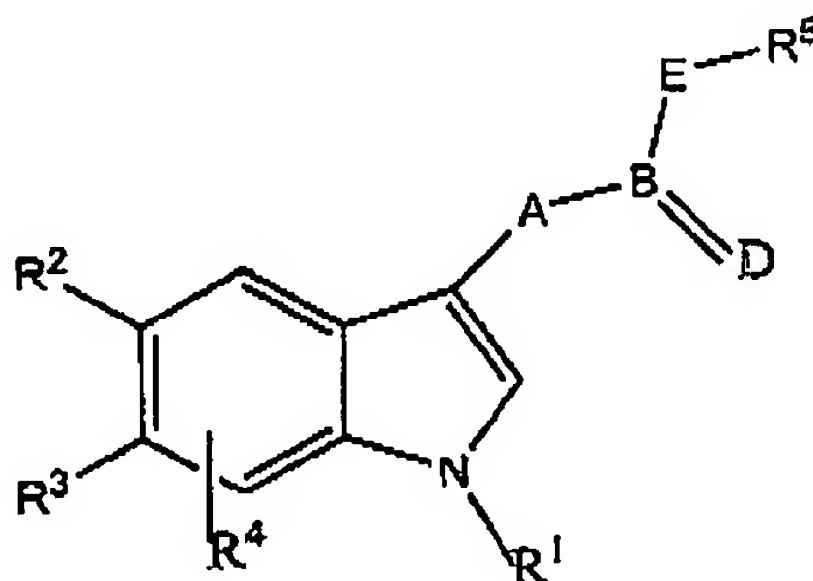


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IN THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS

1. A method for the treatment of a skin disease comprising topically administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



1

in which

R¹ is

(i) -C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain or -C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated,

optionally mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -SH, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆-alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄ aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₃H, -SO₂R⁶, -OSO₂C₁₋₆-alkyl, -OSO₂C₆₋₁₄aryl, -(CS)R⁶, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, mono-, bi or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or

tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents for their part can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴,

(ii) a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycle having 3-14 ring members or a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycle having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, or a carbo- or heterocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated spirocycle having 3-10 ring members, where heterocyclic systems contain 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, optionally mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -SH, -NH₂, NHC₁₋₆ alkyl, -N (C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl) (C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶ -NO₂, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₃H, -SO₂R⁶, -OSO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, -OSO₂C₆₋₁₄ aryl, -(CS)R⁶, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶ mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴,

R⁵ is

a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycle having 3-14 ring members or a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycle having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, or a carbo- or heterocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated spirocycle having 3-10 ring members, where heterocyclic systems contain 1-6 heteroatoms, which preferably N, O and S, optionally mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -SH, -NH₂ -NHC₁₋₆ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂,

-N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₅-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₃H, -SO₂R⁶, -OSO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, OSO₂C₆₋₁₄aryl, -(CS)R⁶, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, mono-, bi or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴ with the proviso that R⁵ contains at least one substituent selected from -F, -Cl, -Br, -I;

R², R³ are hydrogen or -OH, where at least one of the two substituents must be -OH;

R⁴ is

-H, -OH, -SH, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆-alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, -(CS)R⁶, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₂R⁶, -C₁-C₆-alkyl, wherein each aryl or alkyl may be mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I;

R⁶ is

-H, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆-alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl,

-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain,

-C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated, straight-chain or branched-chain,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S;

A is either a bond, or

$-(CH_2)_m$, $-(CH_2)_m-(CH=CH)_n-(CH_2)_p$, $-(CHOZ)_m$, $-(C=O)$, $-(C=S)$, $-(C=N-Z)$, $-O$,
 $-S$, $-NZ$,

wherein $m, p=0-3$ and $n=0-2$ and

Z is

$-H$, or

$-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain,

$-C_{2-12}$ -alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated, straight-chain or branched-chain,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14

ring members,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15

ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S;

B is either carbon or sulfur, or $-(S=O)-$;

D is oxygen sulfur, CH_2 or $N-Z$,

where, if B is carbon, D is S or CH_2 ;

E is a bond, or

$-(CH_2)_m$, $-O$, $-S$, $-(N-Z)$, wherein m and Z have the meaning already described above.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R^5 is selected from monocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles and heterocycles having at least one halogen substituent.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein R^5 is selected from monocyclic aromatic carbocycles and heterocycles having at least one halogen substituent.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein R^5 is a pyridine ring having at least one halogen substituent.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein R^5 is a phenyl ring having at least one halogen substituent.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, which is optionally substituted.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from monocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles or heterocycles, which are optionally substituted.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R^2 is OH and R^3 is H.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein A is selected from $-(C=O)-$ and $-(CHOH)-$.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein B is C.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein D is O.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein E is $-(N-H)-$.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein compound (I) is (N-3,5-dichloro-4-pyridinyl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-1H-indol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide).
14. (canceled)
15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein the ~~allergic~~ disease is an allergic dermatitis.
16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the compound is administered to a skin area which is afflicted with the disease after an allergic challenge.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the compound is administered up to 48 h after the allergic challenge.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the a further pharmaceutical agent is administered and is a drug that stimulates ~~stimulating~~ cAMP production.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the further pharmaceutical agent is a corticosteroid.

22. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the allergic disease is allergic dermatitis.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a further pharmaceutical agent.